

## TRIBUTE TO FRED SIEMS

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career in public service has come to a close. Mr. Fred Siems has retired from his position as Blue Springs city administrator.

In 1978, Siems became the first professional city administrator in Blue Springs. He served in this position for 27 years, overseeing the city's growth from approximately 10,000 to almost 52,000 people. He retired at the end of December 2005 as Missouri's longest-serving city administrator in one city.

During his tenure, he was honored with the Mid-America Regional Council leadership award. The International City/County Management Association recognized him as its outstanding city administrator.

Mr. Fred Siems has distinguished himself as a community leader. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Fred and his family all the best in the days to come.

HONORING SPECIALIST PATRICK  
HERRIED**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2006*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SPC Patrick Herried, who died February 6, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SPC Patrick Herried lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Patrick's compassion and service. Patrick, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SPC Patrick Herried. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

HONORING CHICAGO'S 2006 WINTER  
OLYMPIANS**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Chicago area ath-

letes competing this month in the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

The Olympic Games bring the world together in celebration of the best that every nation has to offer. I am proud that five Chicagoans are joining the world's best at the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Chris Chelios is serving as the captain of the men's hockey team for the third consecutive Olympics. At 44 years old, Chelios is the oldest Olympic hockey player since 1928, but is still expected to be a driving force for the Americans. After attending Mount Carmel High School, Chelios represented his hometown as a blueliner for the Blackhawks throughout most of the 1990s.

Nineteen-year-old Northwestern University student Margaret Crowley has several opportunities to represent her country in speed skating, competing in the 3,000 meter and Team Pursuit events. She was the U.S. junior champion in 2004 and the runner-up in 2005. In addition to her extensive training schedule, Crowley has found the time to study economics, French and literature.

Shani Davis is the first African-American to qualify for the U.S. Olympic speed skating team. Shani grew up on Chicago's South Side and was inspired by fellow Illinois native Bonnie Blair. Davis also competed in the 2002 Salt Lake City Games and was the 2005 World All-Around Speedskating Champion.

Ben Agosto is a native Chicagoan who has paired with Tanith Belbin to compete in ice dancing in Turin. They are favored to win a medal, which would be only the second ever for an American team, and the first in 30 years. The pair combines salsa, rumba and cha cha as part of their original dance routines on the ice.

Chicago native Evan Lysacek is competing in his first Games as a figure skater. After graduating from Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, he overcame a serious hip injury to land a spot on the U.S. team headed to Turin.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor these five Olympians that are representing the U.S. in Turin. On behalf of my fellow Chicagoans and Americans, I wish these elite athletes and all of their teammates the best of luck in their respective events, and I thank them for representing the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympics.

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED IN  
THE UNITED STATES COLORED  
TROOPS DURING THE CIVIL WAR**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2006*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I make remarks today to honor 2000 heroic men—men who fought for freedom and justice and a stronger, united America. These men made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They gave their lives so that their children and grandchildren and generations to come would know an America where hopes for a better life would be a dream for all to share.

The 2000 men I honor today were members of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. They are buried at the rear of the Nashville National Cemetery, their service and their sacrifice too often overlooked by visitors to that hallowed ground.

This weekend, Tennessee will take an important step in saluting, and thanking, African-American soldiers for their important service during the Civil War. Tennessee will become the first state in the U.S. to erect a statue to recognize the bravery of these 2000 men, and all of the 180,000 African-American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The statue is more than an historic monument. It will be a permanent and powerful reminder for all Americans and the world that the strength of our great Nation comes from the belief laid down by our founding fathers that "all men are created equal. . . ."

It was a desire to transform that belief into reality that these men took up arms. They believed in a new vision of America and they knew it was an America worth fighting for. And now, during Black History Month, we come together to unveil this statue and to offer the praise and appreciation that has been so long overdue.

The life-size bronze is the result of years of hard work on the part of many. The African American Cultural Alliance and its founder and executive director, Kwame Leo Lillard, led this effort. But many individuals and organizations throughout the community also dedicated themselves to the task. Creative Artists of Tennessee, the Black Veterans Association, the 13th U.S.C.T. Regiment, the Tennessee Historical Commission, Tennessee State University Department of History, and One Point Solutions, along with federal, state and local governments have all been involved in this campaign.

I am proud and honored that Nashville will be home to this important memorial to all those who served in the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. Unlike the battle in so many other cities, the Battle of Nashville did not take place on one battlefield. It was fought in the city itself and at locations scattered around the edges of town. No portion of the city has been preserved as a park to commemorate those who fought and died in this battle. They are quietly honored at the Nashville National Cemetery. And now, with the addition of this statue, all of the troops who sacrificed so much to preserve our great Nation, will receive the special recognition they deserve.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CON-  
TRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE OF  
POLICE COMMANDER OF THE EL  
CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KENNETH S. MOSBY**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2006*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker rise to recognize the exceptional value of Commander Kenneth S. Mosby's long and notable career. Kenneth has served Contra Costa County and the City of El Cerrito with great distinction and in retiring from his position as a Police Commander brings to close a career with local Law Enforcement Agencies Department that spans 29 years.

Kenneth S. Mosby began his law enforcement career with the Richmond Unified School District as a security officer in 1976. Four years later Kenneth joined the El Cerrito police